

# Phoney Checks for \$1300 Passed in City

## Parents Cite Dangers in Bus Plea

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

### TORRANCE HERALD

37th Year—No. 40

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1951

5¢  
Delivered By Mail  
\$2 Yearly

## KILLER CAUGHT IN WILD CHASE

### 85 m.p.h. Chase Through City Ends With Crash

A wild, 80-mile-an-hour chase through downtown Torrance Saturday evening which ended in a spectacular crash east of town climaxed a hunt for a newly discharged Marine who is charged with murdering a Hermosa Beach housewife a few hours earlier.

Arrested by Torrance Police Officers Gale Whitacre and Donald Nash after the chase was 23-year-old Bill Roger Stewart, who confessed to the knife slaying of Mrs. Miriam Evelyn Lake of Hermosa.

The two police officers started pursuit of the Marine on Torrance boulevard near Cota avenue when he was noticed driving toward town at a high rate of speed. Stewart swung into the Asso-

### Council Sets Date for Water Bond Election

January 8 was the date set by the City Council last night as the day Torrance residents will go to the polls to vote on a proposed \$2,000,000 water bond issue.

Mayor Bob L. Haggard said yesterday that the petitions requesting the matter be put to a vote had been certified and that a sufficient number of signatures had been obtained to call for the election. Being studied yesterday by city officials were instructions for conducting the campaign as handed down by O'Melveny and Myers, leading Los Angeles legal consultants on municipal affairs.

### THE WEATHER

It will be clear and warmer today, says the Weather Man at Los Angeles International Airport.

### Rubber Payroll Bounces

The hot check racket which has been flourishing by spurts in the city for the past few weeks took a sudden turn for the worse over the week-end, when a bundle of phoney payroll checks totaling more than \$1300 began bouncing all over town.

Made out on regular Torrance National Bank blanks, the hot checks were signed by "M. T. Ryan" of the Ryan Tool and Die Corporation, of 1801 Torrance boulevard.

The first checks started coming into the bank Tuesday, according to Milton Pagel, bank official. They had evidently been spread between Saturday noon and Sunday evening.

### \$1100 BY TUESDAY

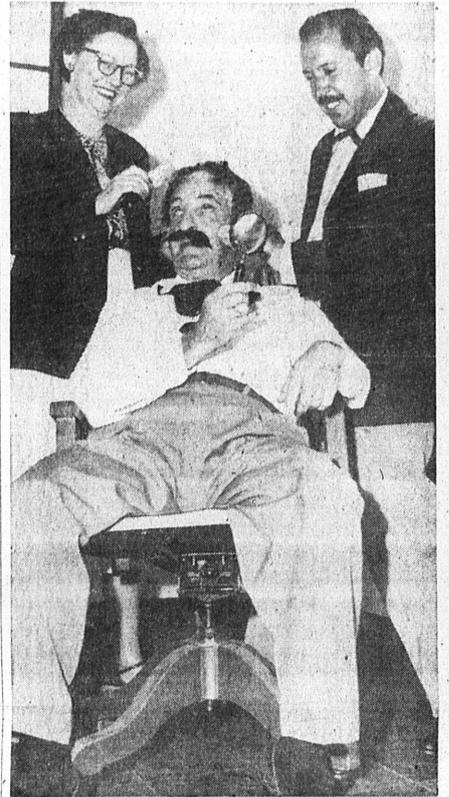
By Tuesday evening, a total of \$1100 in the no good checks had been turned in to the bank. By yesterday noon, Pagel said the total was easily \$1300, and he expected more.

Most of the checks turned in so far were passed in Torrance, according to Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett, of the Torrance Police Department. Some have been turned in by merchants in Lomita, Gardena, and the Shosharing Strip, Bennett said.

### PASSERS BUSY

It was only last Thursday that a passer who signed her checks as Juanita W. LaFrenz left hot checks totaling \$60 here as she worked her way through town. Sergeant Bennett said she was trailed to San Diego, where she is now working. Her arrest is expected momentarily.

In the Los Angeles County jail awaiting a hearing on floating worthless checks here is John T. Coffman, who signed his own name to checks totaling between \$250 and \$300. He will have his hearing in Long Beach October 15.



HOW DO I LOOK? . . . Mrs. Emma Roberts and Director Carl Hawley practice a bit of makeup one of the local businessmen who will appear in the benefit show "Three Nights in Torrance" later this month. The actor is Sam Levy. (Herald photo).

### On Amateur Show:

## Director Arrives; Rehearsals Start

Rehearsals for "Three Nights in Torrance," a musical featuring a cast of nearly 200 local residents, are to start Monday night, October 8, Director Carl Hawley announced this week.

"We want everyone who has any talent of any kind to meet with us in the new YWCA building on Monday at 7:30," Hawley said.

The director arrived in Torrance this week from Port Townsend, Washington, where he staged one of the ten shows he directed this year for Geller Productions. The local show to be staged October 25, 26, and 27, is a benefit affair, with proceeds going to the YWCA to help complete the new building at Carson street and Plaza del Amo. The talent is all local and in most cases strictly amateur.

Sponsorship of the production is a joint project of the Junior and Senior Women's Clubs of Torrance. Mrs. Emma Roberts is general chairman.

Costumes and scenery for the musical will be furnished by Geller Productions, who have staged 10 shows and three pageants on the West Coast this year under Hawley's direction.

Original music for the show will be played by the Torrance Adult Orchestra under the direction of Abe Mistein.

Meanwhile, tickets for the TNT variety show are now on sale. Exchange tickets at \$1 each went on sale this week. These tickets must be exchanged prior to the show, either for general admission seats or for reserved seats, which are additional 50 cents.

"We need dancing girls, lots of them," Director Hawley said. "Also we need singers and specialty acts." Mrs. Roberts asked that all persons already contacted about the show attend the talent party next Monday night. Hawley plans to hold rehearsals nightly with a definite time for the rehearsal of each act in

## Officials See New Building Record for City

Predictions that the 1951 building permit total would soar above the 1950 record of more than \$16,000,000 were being voiced by city officials this week as they viewed the \$11,688,426 piled up so far this year.

Permits issued in the city during the month of September totaled \$1,117,906, according to James Dresser, city building inspector. The total for September, 1950, was only \$909,505.

The 1951 total of \$11,688,426 for the first nine months is more than \$2,000,000 ahead of last year's total for the same period.

Heading the permit parade during September were permits for the school board totaling \$407,350 for the construction of the Madrona and Riviera elementary school buildings. General Petroleum was issued a \$400,000 permit for additions to its refinery here.

Home tracts now pending—which include the more than 500 homes planned for the southwest section of Torrance—should put the year's total "over the record," city officials believe.



A DATE TO REMEMBER . . . Indicating the circled date of October 29 is Mrs. Ed Karlow, wife of the Torrance City councilman, and who is serving as co-chairman of the publicity committee of the local Community Chest campaign. The date has been declared "C-Day," during which scores of Red Feather workers will attempt to top Torrance's Chest goal in a one-day campaign. The workers will try to raise Torrance's goal of \$12,000 on the first day of the 1951 campaign. (Herald photo).

## Chest Workers To Try For Quota in One Day

Something different will be instigated this year in so far as the Community Chest campaign is concerned—so states Chairman Jack Dabbs in revealing Torrance's "C-Day" effort. "We are going to try, and we believe we can do it, to make the Community Chest Campaign in Torrance this year an all-out, one-day drive," said Dabbs.

Torrance this year will go all out to raise \$12,020, this city's share in the overall Los Angeles area goal of \$8,336,328.

"We have declared October 29 as 'C-Day' for the Community Chest campaign. On that day many other areas will launch campaigns which may take several weeks to complete. It is the hope of the leaders of this year's campaign in Torrance to wind up the entire drive in one day—the first day of the campaign. We hope to report to chest headquarters that we in Torrance have filled our quota the first day."

"Our success in being able to wrap up the drive in one day will depend on the cooperation of the community," Dabbs explained.

"On October 29 our scores of volunteer workers will contact business, and private homes in an effort to top Torrance's goal the first day," said Dabbs. Chairman Dabbs, who is general manager of the M. M. Enterprises, operators of a chain of five theaters in the vicinity, said that the "Torrance Plan" has aroused considerable interest in other communities and that some have labeled the task an impossible one.

This is the first time any Harbor area city has attempted the job in one day. But this year Torrance will have company in the one day plan. Lomita this week announced that it too would strive to meet its goal in one day.

The one day plan has been tried before in Los Angeles area cities, but has never been a success. Dabbs, however, is confident that Torrance can score a first on this, and become the first city to successfully carry out this idea.

Torrance's kickoff will coincide with the Los Angeles area date. A morning television show is scheduled for 10 o'clock. This show is designed as a training course for the residential solicitors, and immediately afterwards, they will begin canvassing their respective sections.

While the residential and business units are completing final

## Paul Loranger Elected Kiwanis Club President

Elected to steer the Torrance Kiwanis Club through 1952 was Paul Loranger, owner of Paul's Chevrolet, who was named president of the local service club at a meeting of the club Monday night.

Elected first vice president was Charles Ragsdale, local Hancock Oil distributor. Charles E. Wallace, vice principal of Torrance High School, was named



PAUL LORANGER . . . Heads Kiwanis in '52

ed second vice president. Named as the board of directors of the organization were Edwin B. Brown, Don Hitchcock, Les King, Harry Moritz and Don Parrish. Holdover directors include Dr. Gerald Eastham, Verne Gill, Dr. Alder Smith and Byron Scott.

Park Montague, the present president, will become a member of the board after he is retired in January. Honored for his past services



END OF CHASE . . . Escaping injuries when he catapulted a stolen auto into a field at East road and Denker avenue while trying to escape two Torrance police officers was 23-year-old Bill Roger Stewart, who faces a murder rap for the knife slaying of a Hermosa Beach housewife. The late model sedan was completely demolished. Stewart was unhurt. (Photo by Gale Whitacre).

## Walteria Soldier Dies of Wounds

The Korean War claimed another Torrance victim recently when Pfc. Ralph Breitfeld, son of Fred Breitfeld, of 24239 Hawthorne boulevard, died of injuries received in action.

Injured in Korea on September 14, the 22-year-old Walteria soldier died September 19, according to word received here.

A former Narbonne student, Breitfeld was born and raised in Walteria. He also leaves a sister, Connie Breitfeld, at the home address.

## Kin of City's Founder to Wed L. A. Lawyer

A great niece of Jared Sidney Torrance, founder of the City of Torrance, is to marry a Los Angeles lawyer in early 1952. It was announced this week. The niece, Sheila Elizabeth Torrance, is to wed Alden Gray Pearce, a UCLA and Duke University Law School graduate.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Curtis Torrance Jr., at whose home in Santa Monica the betrothal was formally announced last Saturday night.

Diated Station at Torrance boulevard and Cravens where he asked Jack LeVier, of 2124 Santa Fe, how to get to Santa Ana.

"He looked strange," LeVier said, "but he didn't appear too nervous or frightened."

Officer Whitacre said he and his partner, Nash, climbed out of their patrol car at the station and started over to question Stewart when the suspect shoved his car into gear, sped out of the station and headed up Cravens avenue.

"We stayed about 50-75 feet behind him as he sped up Cravens to Cabrillo," Whitacre said.

Stewart, who later admitted he had stolen the car he was driving, turned North on Cabrillo by cutting through the wrong side of the traffic island at five-points, and continued north on Cabrillo and out east on Torrance boulevard.

"We were going about 85 miles an hour going out of town," Whitacre said.

"Thank goodness we had a green light when we went across Western avenue onto East road."

Continuing his 85-mile-an-hour flight from the two officers until he reached the curve in East road at Denker, Stewart was unable to make the turn and plowed straight into the field there after taking out a 40-foot section of chain link fence. His auto flipped over and he was found unconscious when

## Danger, Not Distance Is Factor in Bus Plea

Fear for the safety of their children has prompted a group of North Torrance parents to ask the Board of Education to waver from its policy and provide bus transportation to the North Torrance School.

"The distance we live from the school is not the primary cause of our request," explained Mrs. Beverly Pryor, 16403 Haas avenue, who is acting as chairman of the group of parents.

"In walking to school our children must cross several heavily traveled streets. They must also pass within a few feet of a slough which is certain to attract the attention of inquisitive boys and girls. Thirdly they must walk along Arlington avenue which is narrow, quite heavy with traffic, and minus any sidewalks."

Streets Without Sidewalks "Many of the streets," she said, "have no crosswalks. Another approach to the school, 174th street, has no sidewalks."

The parent committee chairman said she had a petition bearing 56 names which would be presented to the Board at its meeting on October 9.

Last week a group of the residents in the area balked at sending their children to school

### Bumper Burglar Busy

Someone stole the front bumper, including the license plates, from his light coupe while it was parked near the High School, Monday. Vic Ordaz told Torrance police.

(Continued On Page 3)

(Continued On Page 3)

(Continued On Page 3)